

FRS NEWS

FRS News is a free & Irregular publication aimed at the listeners of the Free Radio Service Holland, an independent short wave free radio station. It usually comes out prior to or just after a broadcast.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome along in the Winter 2009–2010 FRS Newsletter edition! It's over 3 months ago since the previous edition #34 was published. In the mean FRS-Holland has been very active: tests on brandnew freqs in October and regular 5 hour trms in November & December. Meanwhile all mail has been replied to. BTW, if you are interested in catching previous editions, please send an e-mail and we'll provide you with the necessary details. Elsewhere you will find a potted history covering the story of the FRS Newsletter and FRS News. Any response to this edition is welcome. And perhaps you might have an idea how to make it even better. You can contact us via POBox 2702 or of course the easiest & fastest way: via e-mail <frs@frsholland.nl> or alternatively <frs.holland@hccnet.nl>. Don't hesitate... just do it !!! In this edition we are looking back at the October, November & December 2009 broadcasts, letters & e-mails in Mailbox 2702, and we look at the upcoming 30th anniversary. Enough stuff to enjoy yourself!

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FRS-Holland NEWS by Peter V.

As always we have to welcome a number of new listeners/ readers among the die-hard (positive!) FRS friends. Thank to all of you for the (snail)(e)mail(s) we received regarding FRS-Holland's trms back in the period October- December 2009.

FRS Activities

October 2009

Sun October 4th FRS-Holland awakened following a 9 month period of inactivity. At that moment propagation had improved and activity on the SW bands was pretty high. FRS decided to choose for a frequency outside the 48 mb

and as a result we were keen on trying 7600 and 7635 within the 39 mb. Sun Oct. 4th at 08.00 UTC (10.00 CET) 'Peace' from Peter (not Verbruggen!) marked FRS' first 2009 activity! A week later another 4 hour test was scheduled. As said: two freqs were tested: 7600 & 7685 (the 7635 Xtal did not function and was replaced by 7685). Listeners were informed by eMail. The intention was that each

Sunday would see 4 hour of tests in two blocks of two hours: 08.00-10.00 UTC and a repeat between 12.00-14.00 UTC. During each 2 hour morning block we planned to use 2 different frequencies, the same ones would be used during the afternoon tests. Of course we were understandably curious about reception on each frequency. Which one would turn out to be the best/ clearest? And: during what part of the day signals would be strongest? To collect the most reliable information the test schedule for Sun October 4th would be copied for Sun October 11th. Sun Oct. 4th was a success with some 70 reports from all over Europe and beyond. October 11th we used an extra low powered tx meaning that 7600 & 7685 were in parallel with different outputs. The smaller spare rig was connected to an experimental vertical antenna. The higher powered rig used an Inverted V. The following schedule was used Sun Oct. 11th:

Time UTC	Frequency	Antenna	Transmitter
08.00-09.00	7600 kHz	Inverted V dipole	Main rig
08.00-09.00	7685 kHz	Vertical antenna	Spare rig
09.00-10.00	7685 kHz	Inverted V dipole	Main rig
09.00-10.00	7600 kHz	Vertical antenna	Spare rig
12.00-13.00	7600 kHz	Inverted V dipole	Main rig
12.00-13.00	7685 kHz	Vertical antenna	Spare rig
13.00-14.00	7685 kHz	Inverted V dipole	Main rig
13.00-14.00	7600 kHz	Vertical antenna	Spare rig

Also October 11th produced an overwhelming response. Even more than the week before. For both October tests far over 150 reports were received. Reception seemed best at the end of the morning between 09.30-10.00 and the 13-14 UTC slot. There were no major differences between 7600 & 7685.

E-MAIL

INFORMATION

frs@frsholland.nl
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Soon to come:

www.frsholland.nl
snailmail:
P.O.Box 2702,
6049 ZG Herten,
The Netherlands.

Next edition 36 will be
out March/April 2010.

November 2009

With the positive results of the October tests in mind, FRS decided to put out a regular scheduled broadcast Sun November 15th between 07.52- 12.45 UTC. A full repeat was scheduled for Sun Nov. 22nd. Nov. 15th would see FRSH on 7600//5810. A week

**Do you have an E-mail address?
Make sure forwarding it! You will be
assured of automatically receiving
important updates/ the latest news
on the Free Radio Service Holland.**

later we had another surprise in store for the listeners: we would be broadcasting on 7600//9300 kHz (31 mb). We

choose to do the repeat at a different time slot: 10.52- 15.45 UTC. Propagation in November was satisfactory and some 75 reports reached us by mail and via POBox 2702. The November broadcast saw Dave Scott's debut show on FRS-Holland. Loyal and older FRS listeners perhaps realize that there was a time that only two presenters were to be heard on FRS. In 2009 we are proud to have a team of no less than five presenters. We have to go back a very long time to find a FRS presenting team of five... So, we are very happy with Dave Scott joining our team. Dave is a true SW veteran

free radio service
holland

who successfully operated his very own & popular Radio Apollo Int. Back in the heydays of SW Free Radio, the mid 80s.

December 2009

The traditional end of the year broadcasts took place December 27th. As we wouldn't repeat this one on a different date, we planned a repeat following the close down of the first series. In the later afternoon hours a powerful station was using 7600 and that made us decide to use 7685 all day. During the first 5 hours 07.52-13.00 UTC 7685//5800 and 13.00- 18.08 UTC 7685//9300 kHz. December 27th propagation was far from good and noticeably poorer compared with October & November. Especially (too) much noise was spoilsport! Nevertheless good signals were reported in wide areas of Europe. Response from overseas was disappointing. 5800 did well in a smaller area, quite understandable knowing that this tx is just over 100W. While the biffer one is 300W. Modulation on 7685 was loud and clear. 9300 is a high freq and we aim to have a fair signal in remote areas where 7685 is only poor. Strange enough that hypothesis did not hold good as 9300 was poor in the eastern part of Germany and Scandinavia while it was good in Northern Italy and Spain. A matter of antenna direction? In December we received 50 reports.

February- March 2010

Opposed to 2009, FRS activity in 2010 will already start within a few weeks! Either Sun February 28th or March 7th FRS will take to the airwaves. Details are not known at this stage but expect us on 7600 or 7685. This time there won't possibly be a second outlet, FRS hopes to be on air for 5 hours with FRS Magazine, Dave Scott's Radio Waves, FRS Golden Show, German Show, DX Welle and of course FRS Goes DX.

2010 marks FRS-Holland's 30th anniversary. Elsewhere in this FRS News edition (page 5) you will find detailed information how to participate. Take your chance....we are eagerly awaiting your contribution.

Uplink

by Jan van Dijk

Radio Sylvia

Longtime DXers may remember Radio Sylvia from 1982-1984 when the station was one of the few German shortwave pirates using an own transmitter. The Bundespost raided the station in December 1984, confiscated the 20W rig, and the staff was eventually fined. Between 1985 and 1990 the crew ran a follow-up project under the name Radio Scorpio but entirely depending on relays including Radio Delmare and the Scottish Free Radio Network. In January 2009 Radio Sylvia returned on the internet. Their 128K MP3 webstream is online daily 1200-2400 CET, mostly with nonstop music. Besides, two of the original staff members, Mark Anderson and Brewford T. Justice, are putting together a monthly 2-hour show with heavy rock music and some punk (Saturdays 2000-2200 CET). Times may vary and special shows are promised for the Christmas season 2009. The website contains some memorabilia from their pirate days including photos and recordings. <www.radiosylvia.de>

Free Radio Service Holland:

"A Balance between Music & Information joined to one Format. The FRS Concept sounds different, just a bit different."



NEW DEC.2008/ 2009 QSL

MAILBOX 2702 MAILBOX 2702

By Peter Verbruggen

First of all thanks to all listeners who responded to our October, November and December 2009 broadcasts. In this Mailbox 2702 we only feature mail from these transmissions. Time for some excerpts from the mail we received.

For the first letter we have to travel overseas.

"Hello, I am very pleased

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2009 MAIL

to report that I heard your test broadcasts this past Sunday in Newfoundland, Canada. In summary, your signal started fairly weak, but readable. As you can tell from the audio files, it improved steadily until it was 44443 at 1000. I was extremely surprised to hear your signal again at 1200. That is 9:30 am here, so it was a complete daylight path! Reception was weaker, 34342, but your signal remained steady until just after 1300, when it faded out. I was in Iann's chat room during these times, and I know that most listeners close to Holland could not hear your morning show, although a few in northern and southern Europe could. Your 1200 show, however, was better received throughout Europe. Conditions were very unusual this weekend, though. 48m and 52m did not propagate to hear at all on Sunday morning, not even the stronger stations. Receiver: Japan Radio Co. NRD525. Antenna: 75 m long wire, 30 m from my house. I am located about 50 km from the most easterly point in North America. It was really nice hearing FRS for the first time. I look forward to your reply, and hope to hear you again soon." Thank you very much Terry Toope from St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. A very informative letter, we're glad we were received in such fine quality so far away! From Canada to Great Britain where Paul Watson lives in Swindon. "Good to hear FRS Holland back on the air again today. Some interesting results today from your 7.6 MHz experiment. This is how I heard you here in the south of England using a Yaesu FRG100 with 20 metre longwire. First up... 7600kHz. Not much luck at first - tuned a few times in the morning hoping to hear something but nothing heard. But finally at 1207

In October, November & December 2009 FRS-Holland received letters & mails from no less than 20 countries including the Netherlands, Denmark, France, Germany, UK, Austria, Finland, Japan, Sweden, Spain, USA, Canada, Belgium, Czech Republic, Russia, Poland, Italy, Chile, New Zealand & Mexico.

UTC your sign on music faded in followed by Peter Verbruggen introducing the programme. The first recording was made at 1209 UTC with SINPO 34333. The signal stayed fairly steady around S7-8 on my receiver and was certainly readable. Next 7685 kHz. Even better results when I tuned in at 1330UTC - the S-meter was reading S9+20dB for New Order's "Blue Monday." This recording was made at the end of the song at 1336 UTC. The signal slipped back slightly but still good - SINPO 44433. The problem with the higher frequencies is the skip tends to be longer which favours more distant reception but I was pleased to hear something and I

hope these recordings are useful to you. I live in Swindon, which is 100km to the west of London." We stay in North America and take a plane to Missouri for another exceptional report from Mark Schiefelbein. "Hello! I saw a note online about your broadcasts today (10/4), and while I figured I wouldn't have much chance of hearing FRS-Holland here in the central USA, I gave it a shot anyway. Much to my pleasant surprise, I was able to pick up parts of your broadcast this morning! Since 0800 UTC is 3 AM local time here in Missouri, I must admit I recorded it and listened to it later. I'm not too much of a night owl! I used a Perseus SDR radio attached to a 3m diameter Wellbrook ALA100M active loop antenna for my listening. Its spectrum waterfall display let me see your signal was on almost exactly 7600.1 kHz. I first saw/heard a signal around 0810 UTC, there was a short peak around 0840 UTC, and by 0900 UTC your broadcast had faded below the noise. Still, I was thrilled to be able to hear anything at all!" Amazing to be heard so far inland. Thank you Mark for your efforts.

Good old Classe Olsson from Nörrköping in Sweden writes: "Hi FRS, I have listened to your test transmissions today, Sunday. Between 0800-1000 I tried to listen from my flat here in the city but no luck with that. Too much interference from electronic equipments in the house and no good antenna. In the afternoon I went out to my summerhouse and that was better. Between 1240-1300 I listened on 7600 kHz and heard you with SINPO 44444. I heard a commercial for a CD and music by Beatles(1247). Between 1330-1345 I heard you on 7680 kHz with SINPO 44444. I think the reception on 7680 kHz was slightly better than the other freq. I have used an old Collins 51J4 from the 50's and 15 meter outside antenna." Hi Classe, only very few have the opportunity to go to a summer house where reception is not affected by all the electronic noise from a densely populated city. It is obvious such a location makes sense.... Thanks for informing us.

"Hi, I was just listening to your test transmission. I was listening with a wide filter the signal strength reaches from just audible to just a local. I think most of the time the signal was around S 2-3. The frequency was good with no utility or other qrm. Thanks for good music. Till next time. Greetings from lower Saxonia- the home of good cars." That town by the way is Wolfsburg in Germany, thank you Andree Bolln.

One thing which appeared to be a fact over the years is that FRS-Holland is listened to by all ages... That proves a letter from Bo Samuelsson, Linköping in Sweden. "I had the pleasure of listening to your broadcasting station on 7600 and 7685 kHz on the 11th October 2009. Communications receiver: JRC NRD-545 DSP triple super with 1 RF + 3 IF stages plus DSP (digital signal processing unit), My antenna: 20 m longwire. The stronger TX gave a fair signal, a little better in the early morning on 7600 kHz and in the late afternoon on 7685, but the difference was small. The weaker transmitter gave a poor signal, barely audible here in Linköping, Sweden. I am a 73 year old retired Manager of Information Systems at Saab Aircraft Co, and I am interested in politics, economics, culture, as well as technology, especially computers and vintage wireless. Member of SSA (Swedish Radio Amateurs) and DXF (Swedish DX Federation). I am married and we have two grownup sons and four grand-children. I would very much appreciate your QSL card or letter as a remembrance of the pleasant hours I have spent listening to your station. Yours sincerely, Bo Samuelsson." Dear Bo, great to hear from you, thanks for the interesting letter. Lets stay in Sweden where Karl-Erik Stridh lives in a village called Viken. He heard us on the 11th October. "Hello again! I've

not followed the whole transmission but this may be of interest: At 08.12 GMT good strength on both channels (7600 and 7685 (perhaps rather 7585,13) while playing the song "Dream World". At 09.35 GMT 7600 very weak, 7685 nothing; At 12.24 GMT 7600 weak and 7685 much weaker, information about last week's test and today's test with two transmitters. Signal strength was very unstable with deep fades. I enclose a short recording at 12.24 GMT starting on 7685, then 7600 and there the signal fades down so I return to 7685. So perhaps the signals are more stable earlier in the morning. Best regards.

We leave Sweden and travel south-south-east to Innsbruck, Tirol, Austria. Our main man is **Wolfgang Garglter**, he listened to FRS on the 4th & 11th October. "Hello OM Peter Verbruggen, here are now some reception-details relating Your recent FRSH-tests on 39-m-band frequencies. **4th October 2009:** 08:00h-09:00h UTC, on 7.600 KHz: reception was rather "lousy" (SINPO=25322); 12:00h-13:00h UTC, on 7.600 KHz: reception was rather good (SINPO=35443) around 12:30h; when I was (by enduro-bike) on a mountain near Innsbruck/Tyrol; using a small portable SONY "ICF-SW7600GR" with 80cm telescope-antenna. 13:00h - 14:02h UTC, on 7.685 KHz: my motorbike-tour stopped now at the "TIMMELSJOCH"-pass/PASSO-ROMBO (2.509 meters above sea-level; absolutely noise-free place at the border-line between Austria and Italy). I heard the last 15 minutes 13:45h-14:00h; SINPO=45444. **1st October 2009:** 08:00h-09:00h UTC, on 7.600 KHz: reception was rather "lousy" (SINPO=25322) for the whole hour; only sometimes IDs audible; the big rest hardly understandable. The spare-rig (on 7.685 KHz?) absolutely not audible. 09:00h-10:00h UTC, on 7.685 KHz: reception a little bit "lousier" than the hour before (SINPO=23322; a utility-signal disturbed the frequency). Context hardly understandable. Spare-rig (on 7.600 KHz?) absolutely not audible. 12:00h-13:00h UTC, on 7.600 KHz: SINPO=25222. 13:00h-14:00h UTC, on 7.685 KHz: SINPO=25322. For all 4 hours on 11th October I used again the AOR "AR7030", cooperating with the Wellbrook "ALA-1530SSB+" magnetic active-antenna (100cm frame, on balcony, directed eastwards, village near Innsbruck city). For me it became clear that the reception-conditions were "by far" better on the 4th October. And I saw (once again), that my home-QTH is situated within the "electronic-smog" of an hospital in near neighbourhood of my house. Despite the "sub-optimal" reception-conditions I want to thank you very much for Your interesting tests and for your efforts which are highly appreciated. (it was almost such exciting as the yearly "Radio-St.-Helena-Day").

Michael Geisel, Pfullingen/ Germany writes: "Hello FRSH-crew, dear Peter, I'm glad to report that reception on this Sunday the 11th it was all in all a bit better than last week here in the Swabian mountains, at least what your tests with the inverted v-dipole concerns. I was using a Lextronix E1-receiver together with a balcony mounted Diamond D303-antenna and between 08:00-09:00 7600 kHz > 35333, 09:00-10:00 7685 kHz was 35443. 12:00-13:00 7600 kHz 34333; 13:00- 14:00 7685 34333. Interesting is the fact that the polarisation of the aerial is obviously more important than the transmitter output what verifies the rule of thumb that for amplifying a signal in a second stage it's necessary to increase the transmitting power by a factor of 4. Even though in my location the inverted v-dipole won clearly the race, I think using in parallel two different polarized aerials is an intelligent and for free radio-stations innovative (or let's say 'just a bit different...') way to minimize the so-called dead zones due to the antennas different radiation patterns. I hope my report has been of assistance for the further FRSH-activities. Quite some technical talk but definitely interesting! Thanks very much Michael.

Patrick Travers from Sheffield/ UK wrote us. "Hi Peter. a couple of reception reports for the the 15 November 2009 at 09.09 GMT on 5810 KHz German programme, e-mail for a qsl. test programme and noted a SINPO code rating of 34333. I then tuned over to your other frequency 7600 KHz at 09.57 GMT to hear The phrase that pays mentioned, Elvis Costello, Dave Scott Radio Waves. After Dave Scott there followed FRSDX and then my old mate Paul Graham, nice to hear him back on the wireless! SINPO was all the 4s! 44444....I was on on vacation at Aldbrough Nr. Hornsea on the Yorkshire coast and I was using a Grundig Satellit 700 with its telescopic antenna."

Dave Valko from Dunlo USA contacted us after a long time. "Hello Peter!! Just wanted to let you know that I managed to hear your broadcast last Sunday morning on both 7600 and 5810 kHz. Attached is an MP3 audio file of 7600 kHz. The details are in the file name. There was a lot of fading that morning. If you listen to the entire MP3, you'll see how good the signal got (the second clip). It was pretty strong for a minute or two. 5800 kHz wasn't quite as good. It was somewhat readable but there weren't any good peaks in the signal. In September I bought a Perseus (software defined) receiver. Since then I've worked on making a mobile setup in which I could take it out to a quiet location to listen. The attached recording was made using that setup. Also wanted to thank you for keeping me in your distribution list. Its nice to know why you decide to go on the air.

Keep up the good work." Thanks Dave, good to hear from you after so long.

Another 'exotic' mail came from **Bryan Clark, Mangawhai, Northland/ New Zealand.** "Was unable to hear anything at 0752 UTC on 7685 or 9300 but when I checked this morning at 1720 there was music and talk on 7685.17, but too weak to identify anything. Signal was audible past 1750 UTC but gone at 1815 recheck. Bryan Clark. AOR7030+ and EWEs to the Americas 36.11.70E°S, 174.56.70E°E."

"Hello Peter and others, I am sure you will receive a lot of respon-se. Signal on 7685 was fair to good. Especially during the afternoon hours it peaked up to 0=4. 5800 kHz was weak and noisy. 9300 kHz weak as well and undermodulated. Good to hear that the FRSH is back with full programmes. There are only very few FR-stations like yours left on the bands, which is a pity of course. Anyway, best wishes to you and family for the New Year. Keep up the good work! Yours truly, Jörg. Thank you **Joerg-Clemens Hoffmann** in Alsbach-Hähnlein/ Germany.

And that concludes Mailbox 2702 with a small selection of mails & letters we received in October, November & December 2009.

FRS Sales Productions

Order our booklet with hundreds of hours of recordings from Sea to Satellite. Send 2 IRCs or two Euro / two US dollar to the Herten maildrop. FRS Sales Productions offers SW Free Radio, Offshore Radio, satellite, Documentaries, Jingles, Landbased pirate radio but also legal stations from all over the world. We offer attractive discounts!

INVITATION—INVITATION

2010 is a very special year in the long history of the Free Radio Service Holland. This year marks our 30th anniversary, a milestone. In 2000 we haven't celebrated our 20th anniversary for sad reasons. Our 25th anniversary back in 2005 wasn't celebrated either. This year however we are determined to celebrate our 30th anniversary. Later this year there will be at least one special broadcast to celebrate 30 years of short wave free radio broadcasts. We invite listeners and colleague stations to participate.

We'd like to receive as many **personal memories** as possible (especially) from our listening audience! We prefer (*that's the most personal way*) when you record a 1-2 minute recording (*English or German/ mp3/CD/ MiniDisc or cassette*) with your very own memories:

When did you hear us for the first time, what was (is) your favourite show, when did you get your first QSL, how much did you listen to FRS, any special on air moments you remember?

Of course mails or letters are also much appreciated. All these memories will be collected and become part of the FRS anthology covering 30 years of SW broadcasts. Any serious contribution will be rewarded with a nice surprise later this year.

We'd like to receive your contribution as soon as possible. For us there's a lot to prepare and having contributions at an early stage really helps... We count on you...

Use <frs@frsholland.nl> for mails & mp3 files. Alternatively letters, CDs, MDs or cassettes via POBox 2702, 6049 ZG Herten in the Netherlands.

Show you are a true FRS-Holland supporter. Your involvement will turn our festive broadcast into an unforgettable event !!

**1980– 2010: 30 Years of
Free Radio Service
Holland on Short Wave**

FRS NEWS— A POTTED HISTORY

*This small newsletter was first published under the name **FRS Newsletter** in January 1993. After 14 editions, the name was changed to **FRS News**. That was in 1997.*

*The FRS Newsletter was continued for subscribers only and its content changed from covering FRS-Holland only to emphasizing on Free Radio News in general. Where the FRS Newsletter ended, FRS News continued informing the listening audience with news from the Free Radio Service Holland. In the mean time the FRS Newsletter has been discontinued. After 7 years, the final edition # 39/40 was published December 2003. What is left is **FRS News** which will certainly continue as for us it is an important means of communication between FRS-Holland and you, the listener! Talking of communication or better: improving it...we regularly try to introduce fresh columns. Every new edition, we'll publish a collection of the letters/ e-mails we received via our Herten "2702" maildrop or <frs@frsholland.nl>/ <frs.holland@frsholland.nl>. We feel that's a good idea. Send us your opinion and ideas. So far response has been very encouraging. So: thank you to all of you who sent in (positive) comments. In addition in each issue we will go back in time with a flashback to a particular month/year including one of our broadcasts, SW news etc. This item is also included in future editions of **FRS Magazine** presented by Peter Verbruggen. Any ideas which might benefit FRS News are more than welcome!*



**SUNDAY-ENTERTAINMENT ON SW.
"JUST A BIT DIFFERENT....."**